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The Book of Psalms

by

Owen R. Washburn

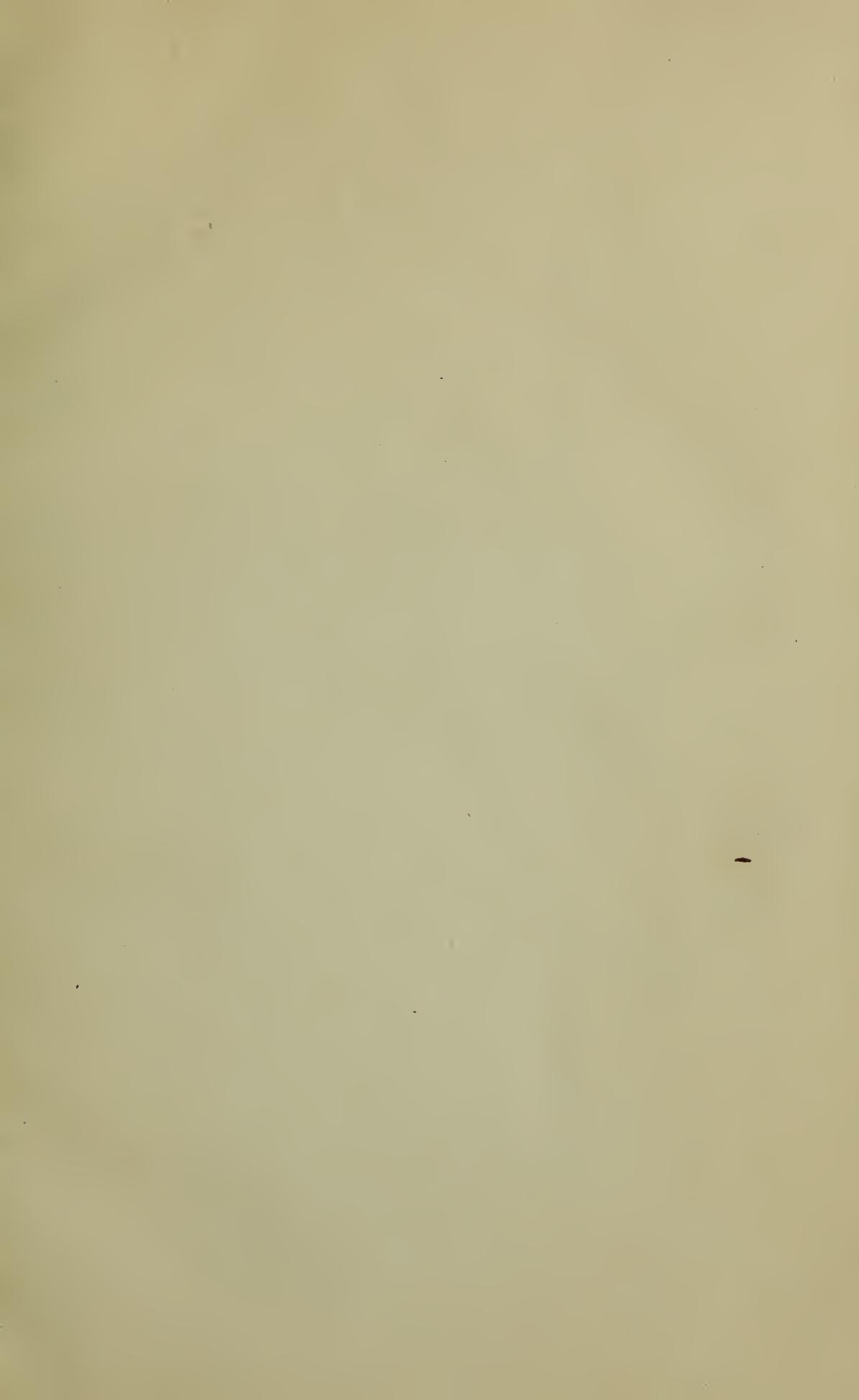


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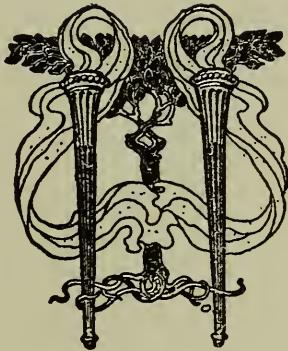




A Book of Psalms

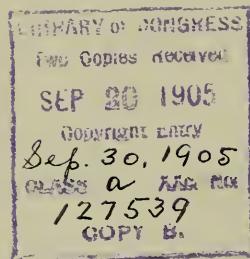
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The Word of the Lord is Truth and the Word
endureth forever. Whosoever lifteth up
his heart unto the Spirit
receiveth the
Word.

A Psalm of the Infinite Presence.



SAW God standing by my thresh-
old at the closing of the day.

His presence filled the doorway,
and his glory was about the pillars
of the door.

He made the fading sunshine his
raiment, the sunset clouds the borders of his mantle.

His word was in the tones of her I love, his
greeting in the eyes that brightened at my coming.

The peace of his invisible angels was upon the
place; and I put off the sandals of earth from the feet
of my spirit, for it was holy ground.

I lifted up my eyes in thanksgiving, and acknowl-
edged his infinite majesty; and he blessed me ere I
was aware. Yea, he made his beauty to descend upon
my house, and I saw the earth clothed with his un-
speakable splendor.

He wreathed the trellis with roses and the gar-
den with the blossoms of promise, and the fragrance
of his incense rose from the corners of my dwelling.

As the shadows lengthened, I heard his choirs of
tiny creatures singing in gladness for the coming of
the night and beheld the evening star shining upon
the pathways of my Creator.

Then I drew near unto God, and entered into the joy of his presence.

O Lord, infinitely tender, in beauty and in love hast thou revealed thyself; fire and sword have not declared thee; storm and anguish are not thy messengers; priests and kings hast thou not made thy keepers nor written words thy sole testimonies forever.

Thou art the God of life, and he who beholdeth pure life perceiveth thee. Grant unto me in thy infinite mercy that I may ever find thee abiding in life and the Life abiding in thee.

A Psalm of Dominion.

WHO shall overcome in the battle and who shall enter into thy saving health?

He who maketh his creed Uprightness and his confession Purity; he who looketh into the future and is unafraid because of his knowledge of the presence of the Lord.

He who apprehendeth the Truth to understand it, and seeth righteousness as the mountains standing in the sunlight and discerneth the Everlasting Strength through the mists of evil and knoweth not the power of the destroyer.

He who harkeneth in the night-watches for the trumpets of His angels, and seeth the banners of the hosts of God ere it is yet day, and joineth his strength to that of the Almighty before the coming of fear and while wickedness is yet afar off.

He shall overcome in the battles and be strong in the day when death and sorrow shall abide by his

paths. Yea, when the friends of his youth pass him by and the desire of his life shall turn unto another and the days be covered with trouble as the storms cover the sea, even then shall he be calm in the knowledge of his strength and steadfast as those who trust in the captain of a great ship.

To him who stands near unto Me, saith the Living God, will I give the crown of life and the sceptre of everlasting dominion, and the name he bears shall be unspeakable unto the evil and a glory unto the hosts of those who have entered into salvation.

Evil report shall not abide in his presence nor unloveliness be manifested in the doors of his dwelling; the Truth shall be his comforter and his way shall be unto the glories of the Living God.

His face shall be a light unto the weary and to the dull of understanding; his form shall have the strength of the mighty and the joyousness of eagles above great clouds, calling unto the Sun. Health shall be native unto his flesh and Love unto his heart, and in My light shall he see wisdom with perfect mind.

Blessed is he who shall enter into the knowledge of his birthright and into the place reserved for the princes of the house of God.

A Psalm for Those who Wait.

 H, that I might attain unto thee! While the noises of the world are around about me and the seasons change in the minds of men, while the deep waters overflow the

pleasant meadows of delights and the wind is cold upon the plains of peace, even now that I might come unto the knowledge of the infinite good and know thee as thou art.

From the watches of the morning, when the sky is dim with the mists of the dawn, I look forth upon the day and long to be with thee. From the portals of the night, where the stars keep watch for the coming of the wayward, I look forth and behold thee as a sign afar off, as a light upon a high tower on the headlands beyond the deep places of the bay.

Wherefore, I rejoice that I perceive thy light in the distance and am glad in the knowledge that even in little things thou hast helped me.

Yet why wait I for thy coming? Thou art all. Why from thy life do I ask for life? From thy strength alone do I gain power while I question and wait.

Break down for me, O Living Truth, the walls of the strange cities wherein I have been at rest.

Break down for me the strong fortress of my vain imaginations and let thy word enter into my life as the sunshine overflows the earth in the beginning of Spring. Take away from me my sins that they may be no longer remembered and the thought of my failings that I may forget them forever.

Lift me up unto the love of Love and lead me into the consciousness that there are no other gods, and I shall be as the mighty leaders who of old found thee in the deserts and knew thee face to face.

The little children sing and are at rest in the knowledge of thee. Oh, that I might become as the little ones of thy flock!

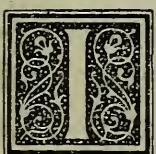
The heavenly multitude on earth stretch forth

their hands with healing and speak low words for the salvation of men; make me as a friend unto those who understand, as a companion to the strong who are silent in the joy of thy presence.

Make me as a watchman upon the tower for the city not built with hands; make me as a doorkeeper that openeth unto the people who call upon thy name.

In the wisdom of the Most High is victory. Lord, I shall be perfected when I have come unto thee.

A Psalm of Night.



LIFTED up my heart unto God in the watches of the night.

About me were the deep shadows, but above me were the everlasting stars.

The constellations were bright with thy presence. The far-off worlds were like mist upon the mountains at the coming of the day.

And I beheld a star falling from heaven through a burning fire; yet it passed not from thy dominion, nor beyond the strength of the hand of the Almighty.

And I saw that there was no change because of thy wayward one. Of all thy heavenly host, not one turned aside from the track appointed.

Even as I beheld I remembered my wrath against mine enemy and it passed from me as a little thing, and was no more.

Beside me were the shadows of great trees, but thou wast there. At my feet was the black river, and the chill of fear was upon it; yet thou wast there

also. Afar I saw the night-lamp set in the shadow of death; yet even there thou wast present, and thy hands held safe the gift of Immortal Life.

From the meadows I heard the soft rustle of the winds of the night, and in the East I beheld the promise of the coming of dawn.

The birds of the wood murmured peacefully to one another in the thickets, and the darkness became as a tent that covers the sleep of a friend.

I will say of thy presence, "It is my comforter," of thy strength, "It is my protection and defence in many troubles." For the night and the shadows are thine, and thy great mercy has given to thy children the soothing touch of darkness and the light of quiet stars.

Lo, who shall comprehend thy glory or enter into the fullness of thy grace! Open thou our eyes, and grant to us to know and trust thee, even amid the darkness of the watches of the night.

A Psalm of Rain.

WE have lifted up our eyes unto the mountains and beheld the garments of mist; the sheen of the glory of the Invisible Presence have we beheld and the enwrapping folds of the raiment of God.

The great trees were comforted by the benediction of thy clouds and the ferns of the wood were made glad by the falling of thy showers.

The winds were hand-maidens of thy Spirit. They gathered the drops together and wove the rain

clouds as a web upon a loom. We heard and stood uncovered at their coming; we perceived and were awed by the power of the Almighty. we returned to our dwellings and found our little ones in silence; their mirth was altogether forgotten and the beasts of the field were afraid.

We looked upon the fields and they were darkened; the songs of the birds were hushed and the rustle of the wheat was heard in the silences.

Then the rivers were made white by the falling of many waters; the little streams were exalted, the torrents roared in the mountains and all the flowers of the meadows looked up to thee in thankfulness.

And the mantle of the storm was rent in twain and the sun looked forth upon the jewels it had left; above us we beheld the bow of the promise of thy everlasting mercy.

The earth rejoiced with songs of gladness and the darkness fled away.

Lo, all we behold is as nothing in thy sight and the blessings we perceive are as shadows to the fulness of thy love.

With thy rain relieve the deserts of our souls and comfort our heart with the refreshings of thy infinite peace.

A Psalm of Deliverance.



HAVE fled unto God for refuge from mine enemies, unto the Living God who has called me by my name.

I went unto the city of the enchanters and abode

there. I saw all manner of mysteries and all manner of wisdoms and all manner of works done in the name of God.

I ate of the bread of humiliation and mine eyes were opened. I drank of the waters of good and evil and my tongue still praised thee. I had knowledge, so that I understood all miracles, and in the great congregation of the temple I met thee face to face.

But I arose when I beheld shadows between thee and me, and I cast from me my outer garments and fled into the fields. I went with the shepherds, who watched by night, and beheld the stars that were ordained of old, and I saw thee as my friend.

The friends of that city called unto me and my heart was athirst for their love. The watchman of that city cried out against me, and I mourned for the sound of music that I should hear no more.

I approached unto the walls and called unto the keeper of the gates; "Peace; and again I say unto you, Peace, and the joy of Everlasting Truth be unto the people of God," but they heeded me not.

I returned unto the green places by the huts of the shepherds who watch their flocks by night, waiting for the rising day.

They broke the bread of peace with me and gave me to drink of the wine of the vineyards, and I was comforted.

Then was my soul carried before the throne of God, in a vision, while the sun was yet afar off, in the breaking of the day.

Upon the throne was glory unspeakable, and I bowed my head and waited for the word of the Lord.

And there came unto me an angel, having a robe of gold and a golden girdle set with sapphires. And

the angel said unto me, "What seekest thou?"

And I answered, "The work of the Living God, that I may accomplish it."

Then the angel answered and said unto me, "Blessed are the seekers after Truth, for they shall enter into the Kingdom of God e'er they are aware."

And the vision changed before me; where I had beheld a throne I saw the multitudes of earth, trafficking and worshiping idols of gold and of lead and of brass. And a voice said unto me, "Behold the throne of God." And I answered not. And again I heard the voice say unto me, "Behold the throne of God," and I was dumb, for I understood not what was declared.

Yet a third time the voice spake, "Behold the throne of God! These also are my people, and in them I live and shall live forever and ever. Go forth and serve me before the throne of my appearing, in the place of my glory. Whosoever shall enter into the sanctuary of my choosing shall behold me face to face."

And I arose and went hence.

Blessed are they who shall worship the Lord within His secret chambers, who shall serve and not repine in the courts that He has ordained.

Bless the Lord and faint not. Declare Him in the presence of His glory, even unto the multitudes, for in them He abideth forever and ever and ever.

I have found God in the fields of earth; let me be satisfied with the grace He has shown unto me.

A Psalm of Resurrection.



HEARD the call of the multitude of the Heavenly Host above the graves of earth's dead. I heard the trumpet of the Angel Gabriel, the herald of the morning, like the shouting of mighty men arousing the hosts to battle. I heard and stood still to see the salvation of the Lord. And the graves of earth opened not and I marveled.

And as I wondered a little child came unto me, having shining robes and a face that shone. And I said unto the child: "It is the morning of the Resurrection, yet the dead are not raised."

And the child answered and said unto me: "Say not that the dead rise not, for ten thousand times ten thousand have heard the trumpets of the angels of God and are arising unto everlasting life. Those who have put off the thought of mortality are not dead nor does the illusion of earth cover them, for they have forms given them of God from the beginning; they need not a resurrection from matter for that dream has passed away."

Then the child touched mine eyes and smiled and I beheld the resurrection from the dead which is and was and shall be till heaven and earth shall be no more.

And I saw that the Angels of God are the Children of God who do his will, witnessing unto the Truth for the salvation of man and the overthrow of Darkness.

And the Angel Gabriel is the call of the Consciousness of Truth; he who heareth that call and heedeth it not shall abide in death and in hell till he

shall know that the Lord is God indeed.

And he who seeketh and findeth God and delighteth to be in the likeness of God hath part in the Resurrection and shall not see death.

And the child that touched mine eyes I perceived to be the Truth made manifest.

Blessed are they who have part in the Resurrection from the dead.

A Psalm of the Church of God.

HE Spirit of God is the Church of God and his people are the heavenly host.

Love is round about us while we abide in darkness and the peace that is infinitely strong waiteth for the children of men.

I was glad when I came unto the place appointed to seek God with those who understand his promises. I rejoiced greatly in the joy of those who gave witness of his Truth.

Those who were heavy laden were glad that they were in his courts and those that were oppressed with the deceitfullness and the wickedness of the world praised God for freedom, and the witness of the spirit.

I was as one loosed from many troubles when I heard the songs of the redeemed and my heart sang with my lips in praise of the unfailing Love that brought us out of the bondage of the world into the liberty of the sons of God.

When we departed from that place we were glad

and feared no evil and the affections of our hearts were fit offerings upon the altars of the Spirit.

Lord, I thank thee for the manifestation of thy church. Thy temples are not made with hands, Christ hath declared it, thy altars are unseen and eternal, the gifts upon them pass not away. Priests and elders measure not thy mercy and where men live in Love is the Judgment Chamber of thy court.

Let me abide forever in thy church, making fit offerings upon the altars, serving Christ with gladness for the exaltation of the people.

Peace be unto the worshipers in thy House! They have peace who come into thy church in Truth.

A Psalm in Time of Affliction.

WHEN I remember the mercies of God unto his people my weakness becomes my shame.

I know that God is good and that those who are conscious of him shall not be destroyed.

Lord, why am I forgetful of thee and become a prey unto evil!

Thou hast healed my diseases ere I knew thy name; thou hast supported my life before I drew nigh unto thee or remembered thee in my heart.

Thousands hast thou redeemed from sin and ten thousands from the illusions of the flesh yet have I not been obedient unto thy grace nor entered into the courts of thy palaces.

While I consider my fear the spoiler is upon me;

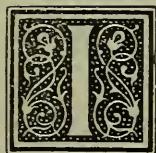
while I converse with error the lies of Satan encompass me about as grasshoppers a goodly garden; while I doubt thy manifestation I am naked unto my enemy.

I will arise from the contemplation of foolishness and go hence. I will seek God in the plain path. Lo, even now he waiteth with infinite tenderness the uncovering of my wounds that he may show me that they are but dreams.

Who shall stand with garments of mourning in the paths that God has ordained or who shall seek him in the robes of darkness and error? Lo, God abideth in Light and the Light hath no shadow. He that seeketh in darkness shall find darkness and he that trusteth in the devices of man shall find man's imperfection, but as for me I will go unto my Father and receive the golden chain of obedience and the signet ring of his authority.

While I thought of God evil fled from me and I rejoiced, for the thought of God is the strength of man and weakness abideth not in its presence.

A Psalm for the Broken-hearted.

 CRIED unto the Lord: O Infinite One, whither shall I turn!

My flesh has become as stone with the agony of my life. My heart is broken within me! The shadow of Death is as nothing and the fear of terrible things has passed from me for I am desolate.

Where is the place of forgetfulness that I may

hide and remember no more? Where is the dreamless sleep of the dead that I may no longer mourn, that I may forget the hopes of my heart?

By night I lay down to sleep but the coming of the dawn I saw with open eyes. In the watches of the night I sought rest but the visions of death were upon me.

I arose to seek the priests of the temple but they slumbered; I cried unto the friends of my youth but they regarded not my sorrow; I sought unto physicians and they gave me the sleep of the poppy, but I forgot not the things which have passed away.

My strength died within me, I wandered beneath the stars when darkness was upon the earth, I sat by the graves of my dead and mused of many things.

And as I pondered I heard my spirit speak unto me; I heard the rebuke of God.

The word of the Lord came unto me saying: "Thou art mine."

I stood and was astonished and He spake unto me again with a small voice but clearer than ringing bells: "My life is thy life and thou art mine. Hold up thy head, O man of little faith. Lift up thy heart and be no more a reproach unto me. I called thee from the dawn of time and from before the beginning of time I knew thee. In all the years thou hast never lost me utterly, thou art the child of my love, a prince of my kingdom, a Saviour sent unto the Jerusalem of my land."

Then answered I unto the Lord: "Take from me the burdens of life that I may be free."

The voice spake unto me again: "Where are the gifts I gave unto thee? Hast thou brought them to perfection? Hast thou served my people till thy

tasks are done. Hast thou loved much that I should love thee with exceeding love? Be still and obey my voice. Arise and finish thy work and thou shalt live indeed."

Then I arose and went unto my neighbor at the beginning of the day and I found him grieved. I approached the households I had loved and found they had need of me nor had I been forgotten of them.

Lord I have known thee face to face in the shadows of the night.

Thou hast been my friend from the day when thou created me and until the end of the world will I remember thee.

Peace be unto all who have suffered, to all who have suffered and prayed in spirit, peace and the knowledge of the love which passeth not into darkness but is Light forevermore.

For Those Who sit in Darkness.

HE angel of Light called unto man in the darkness that encompassed him crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is God the Creator. Happy are they who lift up their eyes unto his glory and rejoice in his appearing.

He abideth above the shadows and waiteth as the sunshine the turning unto him of those who abide in darkness. From his mind goeth forth the edict of salvation; blessed are those who have heard and understood."

And there answered unto the angels the voices

of weeping and of anger and of pain crying, "The silences of the ages are upon us and the weight of death and hell we endure, yet there cometh no God to save us."

And the angels cried again with a sound that filled the heavens and the earth and the seas and the lands under the seas. Yea, even the star-spaces were aflood with the sound of the praise of the mighty hosts and the suns and systems upon the outer borders of the heavens were aglow with the messages of light.

Yet the voices of complaining were not stilled and the smoke of the watch-fires of those who were waiting the coming of God blotted the Sunshine of the Invisible Presence.

Then there came unto the watchers the Angel of the Flaming Sword who stood by the gates of Eden in the day when man imputed wrath unto Perfect Love.

And the Angel stood by the watchers and his sword was white with the flame of purification. And those who denied the dominion of fear arose and were delivered by the Angel of the Sword for he drove out the unworthy thoughts and they became as God, loving no evil.

And those who were no more afraid entered into the Knowledge of God and cried with the angels of Light: "Holy, Holy, Holy is God our Everlasting Strength and blessed are we that we have been called the Sons of God."

And the dwellers in darkness heeded them not for their hour was not yet come.

The Psalm of One Who Died.



HAVE passed under the rule of death yet thou O Lord God Omnipotent, hast given me the victory!

In the watches of the night my breath was shortened and the dews of death were upon my brow. My hands were cold and knew not one another and the death watch waited my departure.

Tears were rain above me and sobs were in the air that blew across my face. The mourners would not be comforted.

Yet out of the shadows I saw thy light as a two-edged sword, cleaving the lies of Death. I saw and rejoiced, even as my body sank unto sleep.

Afar the blazing suns were the naves of thy chariot wheels, the lightnings the sparks under the hoofs of thy horses. Thou camest from the East as a falling star and from the West as a mighty host. Thy hands were beneath me in the hour of my tribulation and thy might bore me unto the knowledge of thy glory.

Lord thou hast made my heart as thine, my life as thine, my soul is of thee and from the gates of death I have departed.

Lift up your eyes unto the glory of his revealings for lo the reign of death is passed and the kingdom is established on the floods of Eternal Light.

He who spreads the robes about him at evening ariseth with joy when it is again day. Lord forgive me that I dreamed. I am safe with thee forever.

A Psalm of Love.

INFINITE Love called me in the days when the roses were about the doorways of my dwelling. I arose and hastened away; at the voice of Love I made great haste, seeking for the form of its appearing, for the touch of the hand of God.

I went unto the temples and the voice was an echo; I sought Love in the market place and found it not. I ran unto the merchants who sold silks and spices, and waited as they trafficked in gold and cedar-wood, but I saw not Love.

I left behind me the city and the streets of the city, and went unto a high hill and sat under the branches of the thick forest and beheld the green moss, the tender ferns and the flower of the wood; I heard again the voice of Love, calling unto me as unto a wayward child, chiding me as a mother her babe, yet I saw not Love.

Then I turned to an aged man, to a scribe of wisdom, a student of ancient things, and besought him, saying: "Show unto me the abiding place of Love, that I may behold its beauty."

Then that wise man read unto me of Love. He read of its battles, its glory, its power and its splendor. He read unto me of bibles it had made and great songs wherefor men died, and I heard the tramp of armies, and the councils of kings and the chanting of priests and the crackling of the fires of sacrifice and the whisper of babes going to the Place of Dreams. I heard the laughter of maidens who died before the building of cities began, and the words of

the Sons of the Stars as they foretold the fate of the world, yet I saw not Love, neither could the wise man himself see that for which I sought. I arose and returned and entered my own house at the closing of the day.

In a vision of the night I was carried to the presence of Love. I saw her as an angel clothed in white with jewels of rubies and sapphires and diamonds. Her face was as the face of God and her smile was like a two-edged sword, dividing me from the weakness of man.

Those who looked upon her without reverence were blinded so that they saw her not at all, neither beheld they any of the glory of her court. Her form was perfect beauty which man may not see save in the spirit.

And she spake unto me softly, saying, "Lo, I was with thee from the days when thou wast separated from the perfectness of thy immortality, before the seas were spread upon the threshing-floors of the winds or the clouds were as billows above the mountains. I abide with thee in the ministry of faith, even in the love of those that are dear. I remain with thee unto the returning of thy soul to the robes of thy perfection.

Behold, I show thee a secret thing: The vision which thou seest is but a form of mine appearing. Holy am I and holy is the womanhood wherein I am made manifest for I am thy God. Return unto thy place and thou shalt find me before thee. Go unto thy labor and thou shalt see me manifested.

I will be with thee in trials unutterable, I will help thee in the days of shadows, I will receive thee by the Rivers of Death and send thee forth upon my

errands till thou hast returned unto me forever."

Then I saw angels fairer than the dreams of saints and they smiled upon me as I went forth from the Presence.

Lord, I thank thee for the witness of the spirit. Thou pourest wisdom as wine and understanding as the waters of the fountains of the waste places. Thou hast given me joy in the days of my waiting, I will abide in patience till my heart is satisfied.

A Psalm of Wine.

OUR unto me rich wine, red wine of the wine-presses of thy gardens, O Lord; pour it unto me while I yet live, lest I faint and lose the strength of my life.

Grapes and bread have I refused, in the folly of my youth; good food fit for the children of the Most High have I passed by and I have eaten of the husks of wickedness and the chaff of the grain in the houses of the people without thy walls.

My heart has utterly failed because of the famine of that land; my flesh has shrunken and the illusions of the deserts have come upon me because I was weak.

The mocker has reproached me because of my sin and the scoffer has said unto me, "Lo, where now is thy God?" and derided me as I strove to come unto thee.

Yet have I returned unto the green pastures of the fields of the Almighty. I have sought thee before

my eyes could again behold the borders of thy mantle. I have come unto thee as the children guilty of folly and I seek thee as the little one who has strayed.

Give unto me the wine of the everlasting life, even the wine of the Consciousness of God and of the Spirit that knows no evil, neither is faint nor weary nor sick nor burned with the fires of sin.

He who receiveth the wine that thou shalt give shall rejoice in the strength of the vineyards of heaven; he shall abide in the harmonies that are of Him who keepeth the vineyards.

O Lord, while it is uttered grant unto me my prayer. I shall be glad when I have drunk at thy fountains; I shall understand and be strong forever.

A Psalm of Seed-Time.

 O the furrows man goeth with the seed.
He scattereth it in the ground and covereth it and forgetteth where it is placed.
The rains fall upon it, the winds pass over it, the night is black above it. Thou, O Living God, seest it and bringest it forth to the joy of the reapers.

In the noontime I rested from my labor by a clear brook. I beheld the workers in the valleys and heard afar their shouts as they called one unto another. The birds were in the thickets, making soft the linings of their nests, singing of love and thee.

I gathered flowers and mused upon them. They were in the darkness beneath the earth, yet at the call of God they came forth. They were chilled with

the frosts of winter, yet they arose in their day and gave God thanks. They were not regarded of men, yet He who made man cared for them. Their fragrance was as the incense in the temples of the East, as the odor of spices and sandalwood in the houses of kings.

Then came unto my heart the knowledge of the mystery of the seed-time. It was revealed unto me and I praise the Giver of all wisdom.

He who planteth the seed endureth toil to make a sacrifice. He endureth tribulation of body and parteth with that which is his and goeth his way and seeth it no more forever. In this is he blessed more than all the hosts of those who give not and labor not. The end bringeth forth the glory of the sower.

So also is the work of him who toileth in the fields of time, in the Vale of Sorrow and the Valley of Humiliation. He soweth goodness even unto the clouds; he droppeth riches in hidden places and knoweth not where his treasure is after he has passed; he covereth it and forgetteth it. Yet God keepeth the work of men's hands. He regardeth the affections of the heart and the tears of our striving. Night falls upon us but we are not forgotten, the winds blow chill upon us and the flood-gates of heaven are unloosed against us. The toil of the seed-time bringeth other toil and no man giveth thanks unto us for the labor which we have taken in the planting. These things I saw, and blessed God.

Then there came upon me the spirit of Youth, even the Spirit of Spring and Eternal Life. I was carried away of the Spirit into the consciousness which is the chamber of the Eternal Presence. And

there came unto the chamber a husbandman and stood before an altar. And the husbandman brought a handful of wheat, even of clean wheat and spread it upon the altar and worshiped. Then fell there a voice in the chamber saying: "Thou hast attained." And as I looked the wheat vanished away and upon the altar was a scroll written with the Word of God, which bringeth joy and wisdom and peace unto all who receive it. And the husbandman was clothed with earth-stained garments, yet he went out glorified, with the scroll in his hand.

Then I followed after him and laid hold upon him and entreated him, saying, "Show unto me the mystery of these things."

And he answered and said unto me: "He who gathereth the wheat from the harvest of God shall receive wisdom unto everlasting life. The clean wheat of earth shall become the knowledge of the joy of heaven. That which is sown unto God is sure unto the ages."

Then I arose from the borders of the brook and sang with joy. God keepeth the gardens. Glory is unto him who labors and asketh not again the seed that he has bestowed.

A Psalm of Easter.

ORD, I thank thee that the winter has vanished. The snows were upon every hill and the ice was in every valley. The trees were naked unto the winds and the vines unto the frost.

The grasses were dead in the borders of the vine-yards.

There came a whisper from the South and the winter departed; there came a gentle wind and it hastened away. The drifts hid themselves in the wood under the great fir trees, in the shadows of the cedars, but they melted before the coming of the warmth of his love; they ran unto the rivers and became joined unto the waters of refreshing, in the streams which make green the pastures of the sheep.

The ground repented of its hardness and blossomed with praise. The stony ground was mellowed by the joy of the days and sent forth garlands. The rocks were warmed by the sunshine and the shepherds went forth before it was day and found that which was dead to be alive again and that which was covered was revealed in blossom and in bud.

Then went I through the fields with one I love and we entered into the thought of God and were established in love forever. We saw the sower scatter the goodly grain as food unto the hungry earth. We felt the life of all Life. We ourselves also ate of the bread that came down from heaven, of the manna of his giving, and hungered no more.

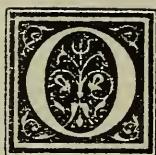
This is the festival that I will keep, O Living Lord, the Easter of a perfect love, of a brave faith, of a willing mind and a strong soul.

I will no more heed the storms, for they are not from thee. I will be warmed in thy sunshine; I will turn unto thee as the waters of the rivers turn unto the great sea, rejoicing as they go. Thou hast not forsaken thy children, and though storm endure for a season, yet thou keepest him that hath entered into thy life.

I have seen the robes of the Heavenly Host upon a thousand hilltops; I have heard the songs of the angels of thy appearing in ten thousand thickets, in the gardens of men and the wilderness that is solitary. The gates of the morning were opened by the white hands that serve thee forever and the glory of thy throne is established in the fields where I have toiled. When I go unto the mountains thou hast been before me and the forests are aflame with thy presence. When I enter the valleys thou hast declared thyself; the lilies and the tulips are proclaiming thee in the gardens before I am aware.

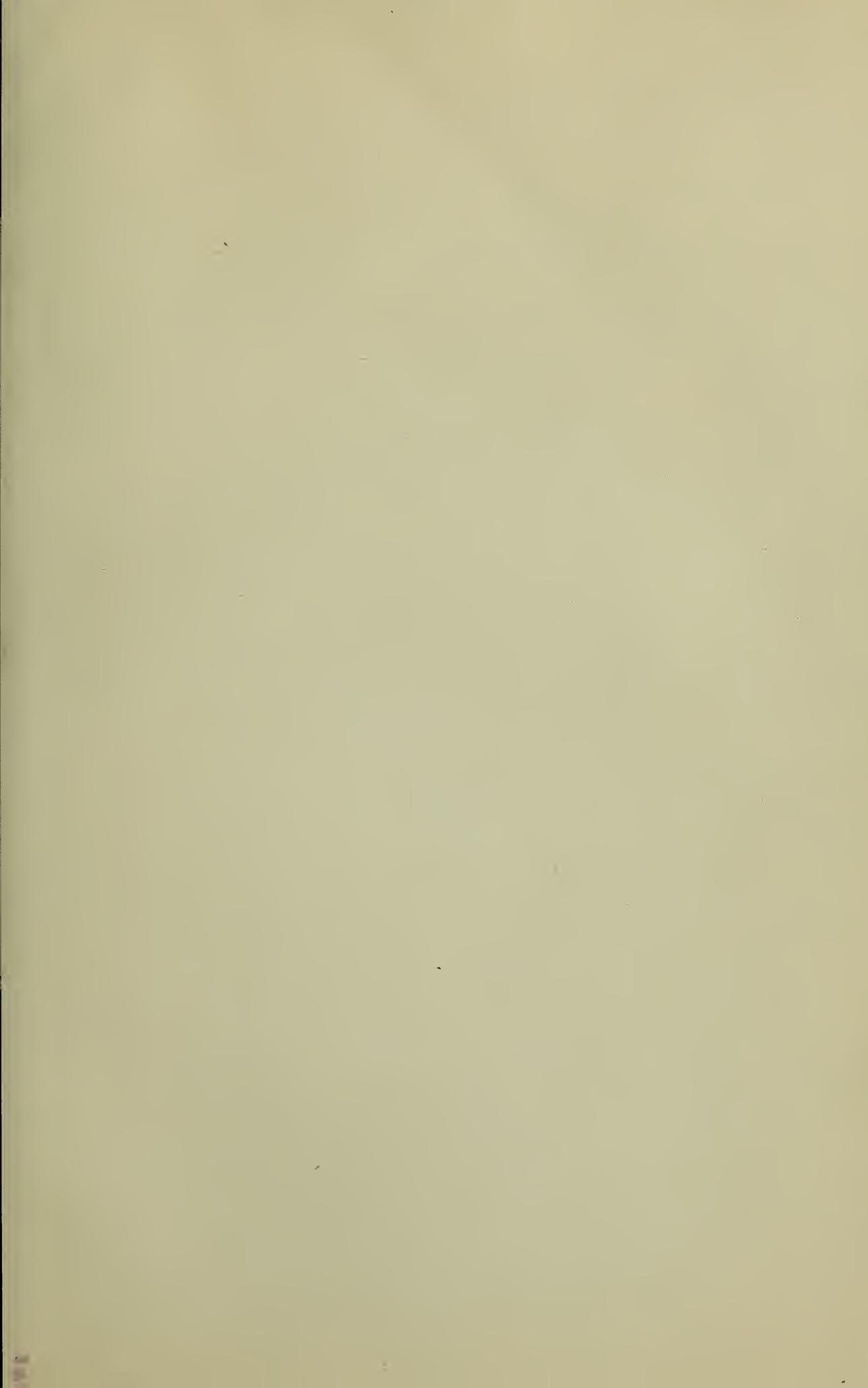
Praise him all who are at one with him! Praise him all who adore the holiness of Beauty, who listen for the Word of Life in the quiet chambers of his Infinite Dwelling-place! Praise him all of his chosen sons! Praise him daughters of men who are awake in the gladness of his coming! Eternity calleth unto Eternity for the fulfilling of the joy he hath ordained! Life calleth unto life for the manifestation he hath commanded! The Lord cometh unto his people with the might of his Infinite Glory. He has exalted us among the angels of heaven and hath given us crowns of everlasting light. Lo, the robes of love are upon all the earth, and the gates of his gardens are wreathed with laurels and bright with waving palms. Let us enter in and rejoice in the Lord forever.

A Prayer.



LIVING God in whom there is no shadow or dream, awaken me from the illusions of the worshipers of strange gods, from servitude to the idols of flesh and sense, and bring me to rejoice in the glory of thy image. Make me to be awed in the presence of thy purity, thy manifestation, which is born of the thought of the Everliving God, in whom is life and love and truth that knows but thee. Bring me out from the land of my dreams, from the land of false visions and the foolishness of man into the waking that is full of gladness, into the trustfulness that knows no fear, into the chambers of thy glory that I may abide forever there and not sin. Lo, I have wandered and eaten the sacrifice with the heathen and the doubter yet will I trust in thee, Life of life and Strength of strength; I will trust in thee even while the feasts of the dreamers are before me, for I know that thou art God.





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